Outcome of Italy visit

43. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of his recent visit to Itlay;

(b) whether a long term stable relationship could be established; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The visit provided an opportunity for wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest and contemporary relevance. The discussions led to an enhanced understanding of India's concerns on various issues, including on developments in the neighbourhood, cross border and international terrorism, drug trafficking disarmament and security related issues. India and Itlay have established a long-standing relationship for mutually beneficial cooperation in several areas. The two countries have institutionalised periodic political consultations and economic and trade cooperation through a Joint Economic Commission.

Outcome of talks with US Deputy Secretary of State

44. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any understanding has been reached at the last round of discussions between him and the US Deputy Secretary of State; and

(b) if not, the areas of differences, if any?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The last meeting with the Deputy Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. Strobe Talbott, took place in London on January 18-19, 2000. The talks were